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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/717,944	11/20/2003	William O'Malley	7257/117 (a)	9036
7590		02/09/2005	EXAMINER	
TERRIL G LEWIS		SMITH, CREIGHTON H		
WONG CABELO LLP				
20333 S.H. 249		ART UNIT		
SUITE 600		2645		
HOUSTON, TX 77070		PAPER NUMBER		
DATE MAILED: 02/09/2005				

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

10/717,944

Applicant(s)

O'MALLEY ET AL.

Examiner

Creighton h Smith

Art Unit

2645

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☐ Responsive to communication(s) filed on ____.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-16 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) ____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) ____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-16 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) ____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) ____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on ____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. ____.
3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).
- * See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- 1) ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- 2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- 3) ☒ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date ____.
- 4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date. ____.
- 5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
- 6) ☐ Other: ____.

A rejection based on double patenting of the "same invention" type finds its support in the language of 35 U.S.C. 101 which states that "whoever invents or discovers any new and useful process ... may obtain a patent therefor ..." (Emphasis added). Thus, the term "same invention," in this context, means an invention drawn to identical subject matter. See *Miller v. Eagle Mfg. Co.*, 151 U.S. 186 (1894); *In re Ockert*, 245 F.2d 467, 114 USPQ 330 (CCPA 1957); and *In re Vogel*, 422 F.2d 438, 164 USPQ 619 (CCPA 1970).

A statutory type (35 U.S.C. 101) double patenting rejection can be overcome by canceling or amending the conflicting claims so they are no longer coextensive in scope. The filing of a terminal disclaimer cannot overcome a double patenting rejection based upon 35 U.S.C. 101.

The claims of the instant application are the same, word for word, as the claims of patent #6697476.

The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

Claims 1, are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Salesky et al '313 in view of Kao.

Salesky et al disclose a conferencing system (10) that operates by streaming audio over the Internet. Streaming is disclosed in col. 4, lines 14 & 18, over the Internet is disclosed in col. 9, lines 1-5, and audio in col. 3, line 46. Salesky specifically discloses, col. 14, lines 52-56, that streams other than the shared-screen conferencing streams can carry information to allow shared or broadcast text chat, audio, video, drawing, whiteboarding, or other communications. In col. 18, lines 65-68, Salesky discloses that their data streams can be real-time shared-image conference data streams. Salesky discloses transcoders in claim 7 & 9. Salesky et al do not disclose the particulars of the

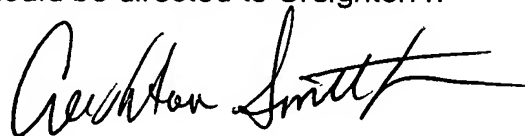
Art Unit: 2645

conferencing system, that applicant has included into claim 1 such as an audio mixer that sums the plurality of digitized audio signals. However, Kao does disclose a mixer that mixes a first signal with a local signal to produce a first transmit mixed signal, abstract. Kao later discloses in col. 3, lines 53-56, that this can be accomplished by analog techniques (e.g. a summing amplifier or by audio mixer) or by digital techniques which are equivalent or by combinations of the two approaches. To have provided Kao's teaching of the mixer that receives a plurality of audio signals and sums them to provide a summed signal into Salesky would have been obvious to a person having ordinary skill in the art because each and every conferencing system has a mixer that sums up all the conference signals from all the conferee participants.

The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure. Brunsgard, Vertthein et al, & Schoo et al

Any inquiry concerning this communication should be directed to Creighton h Smith at telephone number 308-2488.

25 January '05



Creighton h Smith
Primary Examiner
Art Unit 2645